

## *The After-Image (Into the Cold)*

- the first chapter of the swan song cycle -

by Fiona Annis



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The expression 'swan song,' is derived from the Greek myth that swans are mute, but burst into song just before they die. Over the ages the legend was embraced by poets, and led to the use of the term to mean a person's last eloquent words or performance: a final farewell appearance. In the context of my current cycle of work, I am exploring the swan songs of a sequence of historical, infamous, or otherwise atypical people, who produced final works intimately connected with their remarkable, if not uncanny deaths. The body of work is realized as a cycle of photographic encounters of the landscapes and architectural sites connected with these particular swan songs.

To this regard, *The After-Image (SwanSongs)* seeks to render echoes etched in landscape, and acts to engage the physical locations of these swan songs as a point of departure for a sustained meditation on final acts and their sites of articulation. As a contributing agent in the fabrication of mythology, *The After-Image (Into the Cold)* is not only the exploration of an eerie fascination with death, but is also located in the participatory act of cultural production, particularly in regards to the post-humous re-examination of life, work, and the

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